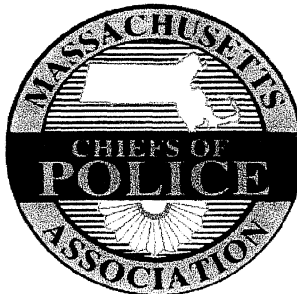


Organized
November 3, 1887



Incorporated
May 2, 1949

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IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH

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West Springfield

2nd Vice President

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West Bridgewater

December 17, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT 02-55 (Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band)

Dear Secretary Dortch,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, I am writing to express our support for the Consensus Plan as a solution to the problem of interference in the 800MHz spectrum.


With interference affecting 9 out of the 10 congressional districts in Massachusetts, one can understand why so many first responders are calling for an immediate resolution. Nearly all of the state has at one point suffered through interference problems, compromising the safety of not only the police force, but also the entire community. The dangerous situations resulting from interference should not have to be endured by the people working to ensure the safety of Massachusetts' communities.

As service providers, it is our duty to work in every way possible to ensure the safety of the residents of our communities. That is why finding an effective, long term solution for interference is so essential.

Public safety organizations, such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, believe the Consensus Plan is an effective, long-term solution for interference. In fact, it is the only solution which will completely solve this problem rather than simply addressing interference occurrences as they crop up. This seems to us to be the most logical and effective way to address this serious problem.

The Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association urges the Federal Communications Commission to acknowledge the severity of this problem and implement the only solution that will effectively eliminate interference – the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,


Chief Edward M. Merrick, Jr.
President